

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Misc.  
Column*

TO

*Mr. Marshall*

REMARKS:

- ☐ ATTORNEY GENERAL
  - ☐ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
  - ☐ OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
- ☐ DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
  - ☐ EXECUTIVE OFFICE—U. S. ATTORNEYS
  - ☐ EXECUTIVE OFFICE—U. S. MARSHALS
- ☐ SOLICITOR GENERAL
- ☐ ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
  - ☐ LIBRARY
- ☐ ANTITRUST DIVISION
- ☐ CIVIL DIVISION
- ☐ CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
- ☐ CRIMINAL DIVISION
- ☐ INTERNAL SECURITY DIVISION
- ☐ LANDS DIVISION
- ☐ TAX DIVISION
- ☐ OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL
- ☐ OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY
- ☐ BUREAU OF PRISONS
- ☐ FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INC.
- ☐ FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
- ☐ IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
- ☐ PARDON ATTORNEY
- ☐ PAROLE BOARD
- ☐ BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS
- ☐ ATTENTION: \_\_\_\_\_

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE                                | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION                           | <input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION                         | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION                         | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____ |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____ |   |

*John Doe -  
Here is a nice  
column - and a fair  
and accurate one. Please  
return.*

*John Doe  
Return to Mr. Marshall*

FROM ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Tax Division

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

MISCELLANEOUS

Dallas County, Alabama Grand Jury

28 1963

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

BM:JD:lvw

THELTON EUGENE HENDERSON  
DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY

This is with respect to your memorandum dated  
October 21 dealing with Thelton Eugene Henderson.

According to the memorandum the Birmingham office  
of the FBI has received information regarding the activi-  
ties of one "Felton Henderson". The information which  
has been received is as follows:

- (1) Henderson is involved romantically with a  
white woman and intends to marry her.
- (2) Henderson and the white woman were in a  
Negro night-club in Birmingham on September 15  
and Henderson was involved in a fracas with  
another Negro male that night over the white  
woman.
- (3) Henderson has made remarks to the effect  
that the FBI has to carry out any orders given  
by him and that his position in Birmingham is  
superior to that of the FBI.
- (4) On October 12 1963 Henderson attended a  
meeting of an integrationist group and brought up  
the question of the boycott to be sponsored by  
integrationists groups against the local newspaper,  
and in the course of the discussion Henderson stated  
that the boycott was legal and was one of his pet  
projects.

None of this information has any substance.

Specifically Henderson has no romantic involvement with Tharress Whatley. He has met her three times, twice at meetings of college-age students of both races at the Thirdgood Church. The purpose of this group of young people was to endeavor to set up communications between the races at that level. Henderson was invited to attend several meetings to discuss the responsibility of the Department of Justice in the enforcement of the Federal civil rights laws. About ten people were involved. The white persons were principally from Birmingham Southern or Alabama Southern. The Negroes were from Miles College. They have been meeting once per week for a couple of months. At these meetings they try to decide what they can do in a positive sense to promote desegregation.

The third time that Henderson met Miss Whatley was after one of the meetings of the interracial group at the restaurant in the Gaston Hotel. Henderson was in a group of people which included Miss Whatley. He was not with her. Henderson does not know whether Miss Whatley works for SCIC. For your information there was an article about her in JET Magazine several issues ago.

Henderson has only been in a night club once during the months he has spent in Birmingham. That was several months ago when he went with Norman Anaker.

September 13 was the day of the church bombing in Birmingham. On that day Henderson arrived at the Birmingham Air National Guard Airfield via military airplane at 6:15 p.m. CST. along with Burke Marshall, Joe Dolan and John Dolan. They were immediately taken to FBI headquarters where they were briefed on the situation in Birmingham by SAC Ray Faist and John Murphy of the Department of Justice.

After being briefed on the local situation, Henderson was driven to the home of a Negro insurance agent John Drew, where a meeting of Negro leaders was scheduled to be held as soon as Martin Luther King and Fred Shuttlesworth arrived. Henderson was driven to the Drew residence by two FBI agents in an FBI car. He arrived at the Drew residence at approximately 2:00 p.m. Henderson remained at the Drew residence until he called Mr. Marshall and informed him that Reverend King and the other people at the Drew home wished to speak to him personally. At approximately 11:00 p.m. Mr. Marshall and Mr. Dolan arrived at the Drew residence, where they talked with the people there until early the next morning. Mr. Henderson was present during this time. After the meeting was terminated, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Dolan and Mr. Henderson returned to the "2121" Building where they all stayed the remainder of the night.

Henderson does not recall ever saying to anyone anything about his relationship with the FBI. He has not said what your memorandum reported that he did say. However, it is true that the Negro community in Birmingham believes that Henderson can communicate with the FBI and can make requests of the Bureau to investigate probable violations of Federal law. No specific instances have been reported to me where Henderson has exceeded his authority nor have I received anything but complimentary statements about Henderson from any government or state official including agents of the FBI.

- With respect to the October 12 incident, this was one of the two bi-racial meetings that Henderson had attended. Henderson was invited to go to the meeting by a Negro named Thomas Wrenn who apparently works for SCIC. Henderson considers him to be unreliable and in the past has discussed this individual at least on two occasions with Mr. Doar of this Division. Henderson expressed the opinion to Mr. Doar that Wrenn was doing a lot of harm at these meetings. At the October 12 meeting there was a discussion about what the group could do. Henderson volunteered no suggestions. One of the persons there was a white man named Al Birch who according to Henderson

- 4 -

popped up in Birmingham all of a sudden. Henderson does not know anything about him except that it is reported that he had been to Cuba. When Hiral spoke he talked of the importance of having the support of the local newspaper and suggested a boycott of the local newspaper. At the close of the meeting Henderson said that it seemed to him that the group had touched all the bases and had made some good suggestions. He said that he thought the discussion about the local newspaper was very good and said there seemed to be a lack of letters to the editors giving the Negro side of the issues. He cited two communities where a liberal newspaper has been helpful. The two communities were Greenville, Mississippi and Atlanta, Georgia. He did not say anything about any boycott.

cc: Attorney General  
Deputy Attorney General

United States frequently rent automobiles. In recent weeks, Department attorneys have rented two automobiles in Alabama -- one a 1963 blue Chevrolet Impala and the other a 1964 white Ford Galaxie.

It has been reported that the 1963 Chevrolet was used to take Reverend King from Birmingham to Selma on October 15. This car had been rented by Kenneth McIntyre, a Department attorney, but was being used by Thelton Henderson, another Justice Department attorney.

At about 5:15 p.m. on October 15, Mr. Henderson went to the Gaston Motel to interview Reverend King at the specific direction of the Department of Justice. At that time Dr. King was at a meeting at the Gaston Motel. When Dr. King came out of the meeting, Mr. Henderson asked to speak to him. Dr. King replied that he was late and had to go immediately to the New Pilgrim Church in Birmingham. Henderson offered to drive him there if he could interview him on the way and Dr. King agreed. Henderson left the Gaston Motel at 5:30 p.m. and let Dr. King off at the New Pilgrim Church at 5:40 p.m. Henderson then returned to the Gaston Motel. The Chevrolet never left Birmingham that night.

We have learned that Reverend King was driven to Selma in a Chevrolet similar to the one rented by the Department of Justice. However, it was a privately-owned vehicle and was not the one used by Mr. Henderson.

- 3 -

It has been reported that later on October 15, Reverend King was driven from Selma to Montgomery in the 1964 Ford which also was rented by Mr. McIntyre. Mr. McIntyre rented the Ford in Montgomery at 8:41 p.m. on October 15 and drove to Craig Air Force Base near Selma, checking into the Base at 9:35 p.m. Thereafter, neither Mr. McIntyre nor the Ford left Craig Air Force Base that night. Mr. McIntyre does not know Reverend King and has never met him. The Ford remained overnight in Selma and the following morning John Doar, First Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division, drove the Ford to Tuskegee and then back to Montgomery. We have been informed that Reverend King drove from Selma to Montgomery in a privately-owned Cadillac.

It is obvious from these facts that neither the Chevrolet nor the Ford, nor any other car rented by the Department of Justice, was used to transport Reverend King. The reports to the contrary are false. Any efforts to ascertain the truth would have revealed these facts.

Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division



144-3-0

28 October 1963

Honorable George Huddleston, Jr.  
Member of Congress  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

The Attorney General has asked me to reply to your letters of October 18 and 22, concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., around Alabama. On the 18th of October we issued the following statement. I think that it will completely answer your inquiry. Of course, any effort at all by Sheriff Clark or Governor Wallace to ascertain the true facts would have made these false reports unnecessary in the first place.

The reports that automobiles rented by the Department of Justice were used to furnish transportation for Reverend Martin Luther King in Alabama are either a gross mistake or a deliberate attempt to mislead the people of Alabama.

We are setting forth all the facts so that there can be no misunderstanding although we issued a complete denial on Wednesday.

Attorneys for the Department of Justice on duty in Alabama and elsewhere in the United States frequently rent automobiles. In recent weeks, Department attorneys have rented two automobiles in Alabama -- one a 1963 blue Chevrolet Impala and the other a 1964 white Ford Galaxie.

Records  
Chrono  
Marshall

It has been reported that the 1963 Chevrolet was used to take Reverend King from Birmingham to Selma on October 15. This car had been rented by Kenneth McIntyre, a Department attorney, but was being used by Thelton Henderson, another Justice Department attorney.

At about 3:15 p.m. on October 15, Mr. Henderson went to the Gaston Motel to interview Reverend King at the specific direction of the Department of Justice. At that time Dr. King was at a meeting at the Gaston Motel. When Dr. King came out of the meeting, Mr. Henderson asked to speak to him. Dr. King replied that he was late and had to go immediately to the New Pilgrim Church in Birmingham. Henderson offered to drive him there if he could interview him on the way and Dr. King agreed. Henderson left the Gaston Motel at 3:30 p.m. and let Dr. King off at the New Pilgrim Church at 3:40 p.m. Henderson then returned to the Gaston Motel. The Chevrolet never left Birmingham that night.

We have learned that Reverend King was driven to Selma in a Chevrolet similar to the one rented by the Department of Justice. However, it was a privately-owned vehicle and was not the one used by Mr. Henderson.

It has been reported that later on October 15, Reverend King was driven from Selma to Montgomery in the 1964 Ford which also was rented by Mr. McIntyre. Mr. McIntyre rented the Ford in Montgomery at 8:41 p.m. on October 15 and drove to Craig Air Force Base near Selma, checking into the Base at 9:35 p.m. Thereafter, neither Mr. McIntyre nor the Ford left Craig Air Force Base that night. Mr. McIntyre does not know Reverend King and has never met

-3-

him. The Ford remained overnight in Selma and the following morning John Dear, First Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division, drove the Ford to Tuskegee and then back to Montgomery. We have been informed that Reverend King drove from Selma to Montgomery in a privately-owned Cadillac.

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Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

144-3-0  
T. 10/28/63  
BM:ls

28 October 1963

Honorable Lister Hill  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

The Attorney General has asked me to reply to your letter of October 22, concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., around Alabama. On the 18th of October we issued the following statement. I think that it will completely answer your inquiry. Of course, any effort at all by Sheriff Clark or Governor Wallace to ascertain the true facts would have made these false reports unnecessary in the first place.

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Marshall

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It has been reported that the 1963 Chevrolet was used to take Reverend King from Birmingham to Selma on October 15. This car had been rented by Kenneth McIntyre, a Department attorney, but was being used by Thelton Henderson, another Justice Department attorney.

At about 5:15 p.m. on October 15, Mr. Henderson went to the Gaston Motel to interview Reverend King at the specific direction of the Department of Justice. At that time Dr. King was at a meeting at the Gaston Motel. When Dr. King came out of the meeting, Mr. Henderson asked to speak to him. Dr. King replied that he was late and had to go immediately to the New Pilgrim Church in Birmingham. Henderson offered to drive him there if he could interview him on the way and Dr. King agreed. Henderson left the Gaston Motel at 5:30 p.m. and let Dr. King off at the New Pilgrim Church at 5:40 p.m. Henderson then returned to the Gaston Motel. The Chevrolet never left Birmingham that night.

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Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

29 October 1963

Honorable George Andrews  
Member of Congress  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

The Attorney General has asked me to reply to your letter of October 19, concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., around Alabama. On the 18th of October we issued the following statement. I think that it will completely answer your inquiry. Of course, any effort at all by Sheriff Clark or Governor Wallace to ascertain the true facts would have made these false reports unnecessary in the first place.

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Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

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Honorable Robert F. Jones  
Member of Congress  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

The Attorney General has asked me to reply to your letter of October 21, concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., around Alabama. On the 18th of October we issued the following statement. I think that it will completely answer your inquiry. Of course, any effort at all by Sheriff Clark or Governor Wallace to ascertain the true facts would have made these false reports unnecessary in the first place.

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Attorneys for the Department of Justice on duty in Alabama and elsewhere in the

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Trial File

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Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

NOV 5 1963

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Honorable A. Sydney Marling, Jr.  
Member of Congress  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

The Attorney General has asked me to reply to your letter of October 23, concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., around Alabama. On the 18th of October we issued the following statement. I think that it will completely answer your inquiry. Of course, any effort at all by Sheriff Clark or Governor Wallace to ascertain the true facts would have made these false reports unnecessary in the first place.

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Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

144-3-0

November 6, 1963

Honorable Kenneth A. Roberts  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Congressman Roberts:

I regret to inform you that the information I furnished to you concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King around Alabama was in part inaccurate.

The enclosed statement corrects the inaccurate information which I earlier furnished you.

The Department is issuing a statement to this effect today. If you have any further inquiries about this matter, I would be happy to answer them for you.

Very truly yours,

BURKE MARSHALL  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

BY HAND

Attachment

cc: Records  
Chrono  
Marshall

Doar  
Trial File (1345)



144-3-0

November 6, 1963

Honorable George Euddleston  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Euddleston:

I regret to inform you that the information I furnished to you concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King around Alabama was in part inaccurate.

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The Department is issuing a statement to this effect today. If you have any further inquiries about this matter, I would be happy to answer them for you.

Very truly yours,

BURKE MARSHALL  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

BY HAND

Attachment

cc: Records  
Chrono  
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Trial File (1140)

144-3-0

November 6, 1963

Honorable George W. Andrews  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Andrews:

I regret to inform you that the information I furnished to you concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King around Alabama was in part inaccurate.

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Very truly yours,

**BURKE MARSHALL**  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

BY HAND

Attachment

cc: Records  
Chrono  
Marshall ✓  
Dear  
Trial File (1345)

144-3-0

6 November 1963

Honorable Carl Elliott  
Member of Congress  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

I regret to inform you that the information I furnished to you concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King around Alabama was in part inaccurate.

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Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Attachment  
BY HAND

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144-3-0

November 6, 1963

Honorable Robert L. Jones  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Jones:

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Very truly yours,

**RUSS MARSHALL**  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

**BY HAND**

Attachment

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Dear  
Trial File

November 6, 1963

144-3-0

Honorable Lister Hill  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Hill:

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Very truly yours,

Attorney General

BY HAND

Attachment

cc: Records  
Chrono  
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Trial File (1345)

144-3-0

November 6, 1963

Honorable A. Sydney Herlong  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman Herlong:

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Very truly yours,

BURKE MARSHALL  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

BY HAND

Attachment

Records  
Chrono  
Marshall  
Dear  
Trial File

144-3-0

6 November 1963

Honorable Armistead I. Selden  
Member of Congress  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Congressman:

I regret to inform you that the information I furnished to you concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King around Alabama was in part inaccurate.

The enclosed statement corrects the inaccurate information which I earlier furnished you.

The Department is issuing a statement to this effect today. If you have any further inquiries about this matter, I would be happy to answer them for you.

Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Attachment  
BY HAND

Records Chrono  
Marshall Dear  
Trial File

144-3-0

6 November 1963

Honorable John Sparkman  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I regret to inform you that the information I furnished to you concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King around Alabama was in part inaccurate.

The enclosed statement corrects the inaccurate information which I earlier furnished you.

The Department is issuing a statement to this effect today. If you have any further inquiries about this matter, I would be happy to answer them for you.

Very truly yours,

Attorney General

Attachment  
BY HAND

Records  
Chrono  
Trial File  
✓ Marshall  
Doar



144-3-0

November 6, 1963

Honorable Kenneth A. Roberts  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Congressman Roberts:

I regret to inform you that the information I furnished to you concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King around Alabama was in part inaccurate.

The enclosed statement corrects the inaccurate information which I earlier furnished you.

The Department is issuing a statement to this effect today. If you have any further inquiries about this matter, I would be happy to answer them for you.

Very truly yours,

**BURKE MARSHALL**  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

BY HAND

Attachment

cc: Records  
Chrono  
Marshall ✓

Doar  
Trial File (1345)

CLAY D. JENNINGS, D.C.  
 SPENCER L. HILLARD, FLA.  
 JAMES D. EASTLAND, MISS.  
 HERMAN E. TALMADGE, IND.  
 WILLIAM FORD WARE, WYO.  
 B. EVERETT RICHARD, N.C.  
 EUGENE J. MCCARTHY, MISS.  
 MAURINE S. HENDERSON, MISS.  
 GEORGE MC GOVERN, S. DAK.  
 A. HOWARD BARNES, WIS.

GEORGE D. ANGER, WY.  
 MILTON E. YOUNG, N. DAK.  
 JULIUS D. ROSENBLUTH, MISS.  
 JOHN SHERMAN COOPER, WY.  
 J. CALVIN COOPER, WY.  
 E. L. MICHENER, N. DAK.

## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

OTTO M. KERNER, CHIEF CLERK

November 1, 1963

Honorable Robert F. Kennedy  
 Attorney General of the United States  
 Department of Justice  
 Washington, D. C.

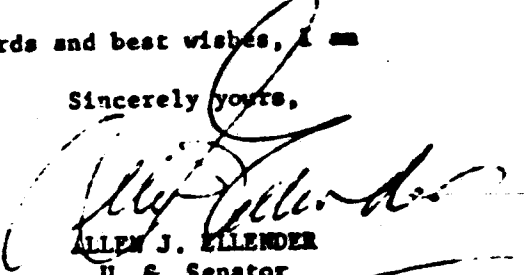
Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter and attached  
 newspaper clipping which I have received from Mr. R. B. Silvey,  
 Metairie, Louisiana, concerning the use of U. S. cars in transporting  
 Dr. Martin Luther King from Birmingham to Selma, Alabama on October  
 15.

I would appreciate it if you would have a member of your  
 staff check into this and let me have the benefit of your advice  
 so that I may reply to my constituent.

With kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
 ALLEN J. ELLENDER  
 U. S. Senator

AJE:ls  
 enclosure

R. S. M

144-3-0

7 November 1963

Honorable Allen J. Ellender  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator:

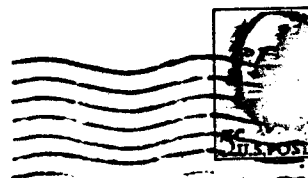
The Attorney General has asked me to reply to your letter of 1 November, concerning reports that vehicles rented by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., around Alabama. Yesterday the Department issued an additional public statement on this matter, since a prior statement had been based, in part, on misinformation, and was, accordingly, in part, inaccurate. I hope that it will answer your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

Burke Marshall  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Records  
Chrono  
✓ Marshall  
Doar  
Trial File

JEROME C. ABLES  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
P. O. BOX 309  
524 CEDAR AVE.  
SOUTH PITTSBURG, TENN.



Honorable Robert F. Kennedy  
Attorney General  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530**

Address Reply to the  
Division Indicated  
and Refer to Initials and Number

**BN:RW:ab  
146-1-7747**

**Mr. Jerome C. Ables  
Attorney At Law  
P. O. Box 309  
South Pittsburg, Tenn.**

**Dear Mr. Ables:**

**This will acknowledge receipt of your recent communication to the Attorney General concerning reports that vehicles leased by the Department of Justice were used to transport Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., around Alabama.**

**As we have said in a statement issued on the 18th of October, neither the automobiles mentioned in the report, nor any other car rented by the Department of Justice, was used to transport Reverend King as stated in the reports. Any efforts to ascertain the truth would have revealed these facts.**

**Sincerely,**

**BURKE MARSHALL  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division**

**By: RICHARD WASSERSTON  
Attorney**

# U.S. CAR RIDE FOR REV. KING ROW REVIVED

Justice Department  
Admits Charge True;  
Resignation Results

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Justice Department yesterday admitted that a U.S. government-owned automobile last week was loaned to Negro leader Dr. Martin Luther King stirred a political tempest today in Alabama and Washington.

The Justice Department conceded Wednesday that King rode from Birmingham to an integration rally at Selma, Ala., July 15 in a car that had been rented by a Justice employee.

The department said it had learned earlier that King had used the government car because one of its attorneys, Nelson T. Henderson, had lied in a report to Washington. Henderson's resignation has been accepted because of the incident, a spokesman said.

## THREATS CLAIMED

But King contends that a "strong case" could be made for the department's supplying him with transportation because of the numerous threats made to his life while in Alabama.

In Selma, Dallas County Sheriff James G. Clark Jr., who had noticed King's use of the automobile, charged that Henderson was being made "the official scapegoat."

Clark said the department's admission confirmed his suspicion that it "had been behind the racial agitators for some time." He said Henderson's resignation was used to cloak the department's "over-all activity in fomenting civil disobedience in Alabama."

Henderson admitted that he had loaned the government-owned automobile to a Negro minister, the Rev. Nelson H. Smith, who made it available to take King to Selma. Henderson admitted he knew the automobile would be used for that purpose, a department source said.

Other racial developments:

New Orleans — Civil rights organizations vowed to continue their efforts today to desegregate facilities at city hall.

Five persons including the local president of the Congress of Racial Equality, were arrested during a sit-in attempt yesterday. Forty-three persons have been arrested at the city hall

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3)

ATTANOOGA NEWS-FRE

# KING CAR RIDE ROW REVIVED

(Continued From Page 1)

cafeteria since the campaign began a week ago.

Sumter, S.C. — The South Carolina Association of Citizens Councils yesterday proposed a referendum to determine if state-owned parks, closed to avoid desegregation, should be reopened.

New Haven, Conn. — Edward E. Krickhaus, an assistant professor of psychology at Yale, was arrested yesterday and charged with helping organize a weekend racial protest here which resulted in a scuffle between pickets and police.

Nashville, Tenn. — A group of Vanderbilt students demanded that the operator of a small campus restaurant desegregate his facilities.

Mobile, Ala. — Commissioner Charles S. Trimmer said he will challenge an executive order issued by Police Commissioner George McNaly requiring civil rights pickets to be fingerprinted and photographed.

Tallahassee — The NAACP filed a petition with the Florida Supreme Court seeking release of four youngsters held in a St. Augustine jail since their arrest at a sit-in July 23.

JEROME C. ABLES  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
P. O. BOX 269  
SOUTH PITTSBURGH, TENN.

November 7, 1963

Honorable Robert F. Kennedy  
Attorney General  
U. S. Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Attorney General:

I wrote to you sometime in the past about the loaning of cars donated by the Justice Department to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. On this date I received a reply from a Richard Wasserstrom an attorney there in the Justice Department who wrote on behalf of Mr. Burke Marshall. This was a very sharp and nasty letter. Also it came out in the Chattanooga Times this morning and the Chattanooga Free-Press this afternoon that the Justice Department admits the loaning of a car for the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr, and as a result of this, one of your colored attorneys, Thelton Henderson is now resigning because he lied.

I am herewith enclosing for your information a thermofax copy of the letter from your Mr. Wasserstrom, as well as a thermofax copy of the newspaper clipping published on this date, November 7, 1963. By these reports the Justice Department is putting in jeopardy the reputation of the FBI and the reputation of the Justice Department. I am very strongly protesting this and I certainly would appreciate some reply on this.

Very truly yours,

  
JEROME C. ABLES

JCA:hmr  
Enclosures 2

146-1-7747

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RECORDS BRANCH		
J. ATTORNEY GENERAL		
CIVIL RIGHTS DIV.		
Gen. Lit. Sec.		